

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 USIA-15 PRS-01

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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1. ACCORDING TO ARTICLE BY YOSEF HARIF IN MAARIV, US HAS EXPLAINED TO ISRAEL IN REPLY TO GOI QUERY THAT REFERENCE IN RESOLUTION 338 TO " AUSPICES" FOR PEACE TALKS MEANS, AS FAR US IS CONCERNED, THAT US WILL ACT AS CATALYST AT GENEVA, TRYING TO HELP BRIDGE GAPS AND PREVENT CRISES IN COURSE OF CONFERENCE. HARIF SAYS THAT US ADDED THAT IT DID NOT KNOW HOW USSR INTERPRETS TERM " AUSPICES."

2. HARIF SAYS THAT OPENING SESSION AT PEACE CONFERENCE DEC 18 WILL BE OF CEREMONIAL NATURE ONLY AND WILL BE AT FOREIGN MINISTER LEVEL. DISCUSSION OF MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE WILL BE POSTPONED UNTIL AFTER ISRAELI ELECTIONS. HOWEVER, PERMANENT DELEGATIONS WILL REMAIN IN GENEVA AFTER OPENING SESSION AT LOWER LEVEL.

3. ACCORDING TO HARIF, UN IS NOW BUSY ORGANIZING SECRETARIAT FOR GENEVA CONFERENCE AND MAKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF ITS GENEVA BUILDING, AND US IS BEHIND ALL THIS UN ACTIVITY BECAUSE OF ITS CONVICTION THAT VERY FACT OF HOLDING OPENING SESSION WILL CALM SITUATION IN MIDDLE EAST.

4. HARIF CONTINUES THAT ISRAEL AND US HAVE AGREED THAT CONFERENCE SHOULD OPERATE THROUGH SUBCOMMITTEES COMPRISED OF ISRAEL AND EACH OF ITS NEIGHBORS TO SETTLE BILATERAL ISSUES; APPARENTLY ARAB STATES HAVE AGREED TO THIS. HARIF WRITES THAT OFFICIAL INVITATIONS TO CONFERENCE, TO BE SIGNED BY US AND USSR, WILL BE SENT TO THOSE COUNTRIES WHOSE PARTICIPATION HAS UNCLASSIFIED

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ALREADY BEEN DECIDED UPON--ISRAEL, EGYPT, SYRIA, AND JORDAN--

AFTER THEIR REACTION IS RECEIVED TO DRAFT INVITATION SUBMITTED TO THEM.

5. HARIF ADDS THAT INVITATION WAS ALREADY SENT TO UNSYG WALDHEIM WHICH IS SIMILAR TO THOSE SENT TO PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES. ACCORDING TO HARIF, WALDHEIM HAS BEEN INVITED TO TAKE PART IN OPENING CEREMONY, TO APPOINT REPRESENTATIVE ON HIS BEHALF FOR DISCUSSIONS AT CONFERENCE, AND TO PLACE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES OF UN AT DISPOSAL OF CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS. IN REPLY TO GOI QUESTION, IT WAS STATED (HARIF DOES NOT INDICATE BY WHOM) THAT ROLE OF WALDHEIM AND OF HIS REPRESENTATIVE WOULD BE THAT OF OBSERVER ONLY.

6. ACCORDING TO HARIF, GOI HAS RAISED POINT ABOUT FORMULATION

OF INVITATION TO CONFERENCE AND HAS ASKED THAT IT DEFINE PURPOSE OF CONFERENCE EXPLICITLY: " TO REACH A PERMANENT

PEACE THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CONCERNED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH UNSC RESOLUTION 338." HARIF ADDS ISRAEL HAS INFORMED US IT WILL NOT SIT DOWN FOR TALKS WITH SYRIA IF SYRIA DOES NOT FULFILL ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER GENEVA CONVENTION, MEANING THAT SYRIA MUST IMMEDIATELY SUBMIT LIST OF POWS, INDICATED WHICH ARE WOUNDED, AND PERMIT ICRC VISITS TO POWS. HARIF SAYS THERE HAS ALSO BEEN SUGGESTION THAT ISRAEL NOT PARTICIPATE AT OPENING OF CONFERENCE IF SYRIA DOES NOT START ABIDING BY GENEVA CONVENTION FIRST.

7. POSSIBILITY IS NOT TO BE RULED OUT, ACCORDING TO HARIF, THAT EVEN BEFORE OPENING SESSION OF CONFERENCE LEBANON WILL ALSO BE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE. HARIF SAYS ISRAELIS ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN THIS BECAUSE INVITATION TO LEBANON WOULD HIGHLIGHT FACT THAT THIS IS TO BE PEACE CONFERENCE AND NOT MERELY CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS ISRAELI TROOP WITHDRAWALS

8. AS FOR POSSIBLE INVITATIONS TO ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS, SUCH AS PALESTINIANS, HARIF WRITES THAT US AND ISRAEL HAVE AGREED THAT IF US WANTS TO ISSUE ADDITIONAL INVITATIONS, THIS WILL ONLY BE DONE AFTER UNANIMOUS AGREEMENT OF ORIGINAL PARTICIPANTS HAS BEEN OBTAINED.

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9. HARIF SAYS THAT ISRAEL HAS TOLD US THAT IT SHOULD BE ENSURED THAT SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS AT CONFERENCE START ON SUBJECT OF NATURE OF PEACE. THIS MEANS, HARIF EXPLAINS, THAT ONLY IN LIGHT OF DEFINITION OF NATURE OF PEACE WILL THERE BE WAY TO DEAL WITH BOUNDARIES FROM SECURITY VIEWPOINT; ONE CAN ONLY EXPECT FLEXIBILITY FROM ISRAEL RE BOUNDARIES IF ISRAEL IS CONVINCED THAT NATURE OF THE PEACE ARABS HAVE

IN MIND IS SATISFACTORY TO ISRAEL. HARIF ADDS THAT SO FAR,
THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ON THIS POINT.

10. HARIF CONTINUES THAT IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT FIRST SUBSTANTIVE
SUBJECT AT CONFERENCE WILL BE DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES, IN
VIEW OF BREAKDOWN OF KM 101 TALKS. HARIF SAYS IT HAS BEEN
POINTED OUT IN JERUSALEM THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER REACHED
CONCLUSION AT VERY EARLY STAGE THAT THERE WAS HARDLY A
CHANCE EGYPT WOULD WANT TO REACH AGREEMENT AT KM 101 BEFORE
GENEVA CONFERENCE, EVEN IF ISRAEL SHOWED FLEXIBILITY IN
KM 101 TALKS, AS ISRAEL DID. THEREFORE, SECRETARY PROPOSED
TRANSFER OF ISSUE OF DISENGAGEMENT TO GENEVA CONFERENCE.
HARIF ADDS GOI IS INTERESTED IN CONTINUING KM 101 TALKS
BECAUSE IT HAS BEEN POSSIBLE THERE TO DISCUSS VARIOUS OTHER
EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI ISSUES AND ALSO BECAUSE THIS MIGHT HELP TO
KEEP MIDDLE EAST CALM UNTIL DECEMBER 18.
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